

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 01200 191807Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 COA-01 L-02 CG-00 DLOS-03

DOT-00 H-01 INRE-00 SCA-01 SP-02 EB-07 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SCS-03

USIE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 SSO-00 /060 W

----- 098367

O R 191740Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4510

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PLOS EFIS EC US

SUBJECT: LICENSE PURCHASES BY US FISHING BOATS

REF: A) QUITO 987 B) STATE 30655 C) QUITO 995 D) QUITO 1151

1. CONGEN AND EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE NOW HAD MORE THAN THREE WEEKS OF CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH CAPTAINS AND CREWS OF SEVEN DETAINED US-FLAG VESSELS. ONE FACT WHICH HAS EMERGED CLEARLY FROM CONVERSATIONS IS THAT VESSEL CAPTAINS BELIEVE IT IS USG'S DELIBERATE POLICY TO DISCOURAGE PURCHASE OF LICENSES. AS REPORTED REF A, THIS ALSO SEEMS TO BE IMPRESSION OF STARKIST REP HERE. IN FACT, CONSUL KELLER REPORTS FROM GUAYAQUIL THAT IN CONVERSATION FEB 19 STARKIST REP STATED THAT PAST POLICY OF HIS COMPANY HAD BEEN NOT BE BUY LICENSES "IN ORDER TO DEFEND STATE DEPARTMENT'S LOS POLICY." CONGEN DEWITT REPORTS THAT VIRTUALLY ALL THE CAPTAINS HAVE COMPLAINED THAT THEY WANTED TO BUY LICENSES BUT WERE TURNED DOWN BY THEIR COMPANIES ON GROUNDS THAT "IT IS AGAINST STATE DEPARTMENT POLICY."

2. IF, THEREFORE, US POLICY ON PURCHASE OF LICENSES IS THAT THIS IS STRICTLY A MATTER FOR DECISION BY VESSEL
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OWNERS AND OPERATORS (REF B), THEN WORD OF THIS POLICY

WOULD APPEAR NOT TO HAVE REACHED OUR INDUSTRY IN AN UNAMBIGUOUS FASHION. EXISTENCE OF ECUADOREAN MISCONCEPTIONS CONCERNING OUR POLICY (REF D) ARE THEREFORE ALL THE MORE UNDERSTANDABLE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: FOR FOREGOING REASONS, EMBASSY WISHES TO REITERATE ITS VIEW ON DESIRABILITY OF STATEMENT ALONG LINES PROPOSED REF D AND WE WOULD HOPE TO HAVE DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION TO PUBLICLY STATE WHAT IS ALREADY AN ESTABLISHED POLICY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, EFIS, EC, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006